



MALLING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

for

1941.

By the

Medical Officer of Health

(Dr. N. HAY BOLTON)

and

Senior Sanitary Inspector

(Mr. S. L. BUNDY).

COUNCIL OFFICES,
WEST MALLING.

To the Chairman and Members of the Malling R.D.C.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my eighth Annual Report on the health of the area for the year ended 31st December, 1941. In accordance with instructions received from the Ministry the report is confined to essential matters, and I have dealt only with the more important subjects.

As will be seen, the vital statistics continue to remain satisfactory. The death rate of 12.82 per 1,000 population compares favourably with the corresponding figure for England and Wales, which was 12.9 per 1,000 civilian population, whilst the birth rate of 13.92 is 0.28 lower than the figure for the country as a whole.

Nine hundred and twenty cases of infectious diseases were notified by medical practitioners during the year. I would point out, however, that 97 per cent of the cases notified related to whooping cough and measles which were prevalent in the first quarter of the year. No serious outbreak of infectious disease occurred during the year.

SECTION A.

Area of the District (in acres)	45,650
Registrar General's estimate of resident population	32,610
Number of inhabited houses (end 1941) according to rate books - computed	9,339
Rateable Value	£188,063
Sum represented by a penny rate	£779

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS.

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Legitimate	426	216	210
Illegitimate	28	13	15
Total Live Births	454	229	225
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population.			13.92
<u>Still Births</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Legitimate	13	5	8
Illegitimate	3	2	1
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			35.56
<u>Deaths</u>			
Total			418
Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population			12.82
<u>Deaths from Puerperal Causes</u>			
Puerperal Sepsis			Nil.
Other maternal causes			Nil.
Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births			Nil.

Death rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	. . .	57.27
Legitimate infants per 1,000	. . .	
Legitimate live births	58.69
Illegitimate infants per 1,000	
Illegitimate live births	35.71
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	56
" " measles " "	2
" " whooping cough (all ages)	. .	2
" " Diarrhoea (under two years of age)		2

SECTION B.

Public Health Staff. The staff remains the same as recorded in the Report for 1938.

(a) Laboratory Facilities. Full use has been made of the facilities provided by the Kent County Council. I would add that the arrangements are adequate.

(b) Ambulance Facilities. These services are sufficient for the area and no important changes have been made.

(c) Nursing in the Home. I have noted in previous reports the excellent work carried out by the village Nursing Associations. In spite of many difficulties these Associations continue to carry out their very valuable work in a keen and efficient manner, and I should like to express my appreciation for their co-operation and assistance during the year under review.

The arrangements for the treatment of infectious diseases remain unchanged.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Kent County Council are responsible for the administration of these services within the area. It is unnecessary for me to add that the services are adequate and much valuable work has been carried out during the year under review.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

The following cases of notifiable diseases occurred during the year :-

Diseases.	Total Notified.	Admitted to East Malling Isolation Hospital.	Deaths.
Enteric Fever	7	1	Nil.
Scarlet Fever	48	62	Nil.
Whooping cough	86	Nil.	2.
Diphtheria	19	17	1.
Erysipelas	4	Nil.	Nil.
Smallpox	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Measles	709	7	2.
Pneumonia	43	Nil.	21.
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	Nil.	Nil.
Totals	- 920	87.	26.

The following table is inserted for comparison purposes with the death and notification rates for England and Wales. It will be seen that the comparison is favourable:-

	<u>England</u> <u>and</u> <u>Wales.</u>	<u>Malling</u> <u>R. D.</u>
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Rates per 1,000 population (civilian).

Deaths:-

All causes	12.9	12.82
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00
Para-Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.06	0.06
Diphtheria	0.07	0.03
Influenza	0.19	0.21
Smallpox	-	-
Measles	0.03	0.06

Notifications.

Typhoid	0.03	0.06
Para-Typhoid Fever	0.09	0.15
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.25	0.00
Scarlet Fever	1.47	1.47
Whooping Cough	4.39	2.64
Diphtheria	1.25	0.58
Erysipelas	0.30	0.12
Smallpox	0.00	0.00
Measles	10.33	21.74
Pneumonia	1.25	1.28

Tuberculosis - Respiratory.

Fifteen deaths were registered as due to tuberculosis of the respiratory system as compared with twenty three for the previous year. The death rate was .46 per 1,000 population. Eighteen new cases were added to the register.

Tuberculosis - Non-respiratory.

Four deaths were registered as due to non-respiratory tuberculosis yielding a death rate of .12 per 1,000 population. Five new cases were notified during the year.

The following table sets out in age groups the new cases recorded in the register together with such deaths as occurred:-

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-res- piratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
15 - 25	4	4	-	1	-	-	1	-
25 - 35	1	2	..	1	3	2	-	-
35 - 45	1	-	-	1	3	1	-	-
45 - 55	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
55 - 65	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 upwards.	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	1
Totals.	11	7	1	4	12	3	3	1

The table set out below shows the number of deaths from all causes during the year:-

<u>No.</u>	<u>Cause.</u>		<u>Number</u>
			<u>Male.</u> <u>Female.</u>
4	Whooping cough	.	2
5	Diphtheria	.	-
6	Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	12	3
7	Other forms of tuberculosis.	5	1
8	Syphilitic diseases	2	1
9	Influenza	4	3
10	Measles	2	0
12	Ac: inf: enceph:	-	1
13	Cancer of buc: cav: etc.	4	2
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum.	6	4
15	Cancer of breast	-	7
16	Cancer of all other sites	19	14
17	Diabetes	6	2
18	Intracranial vascular lesions	14	12
19	Heart disease	58	57
20	Other diseases of circ. system	10	4
21	Bronchitis	7	7
22	Pneumonia	12	9
23	Other respiratory diseases	2	-
24	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	5	-
25	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-	2
26	Appendicitis	1	1
27	Other digestive diseases	4	3
28	Nephritis	10	10
31	Premature birth	1	5
32	Con: mal: birth inj: etc.	7	5
33	Suicide	5	0
34	Road traffic accidents	10	1
35	Other violent causes	11	4
36	All other causes	22	20
Totals -		238	180

In conclusion, I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to the Chairman, Members of the Council and Officials for their courtesy and assistance throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

N. Hay Bolton.

Medical Officer of Health.

30th July, 1942.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
WEST MALLING.

To the Chairman and Members of the Malling R. D. C.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following details of the Sanitary circumstances of the area together with the details of the work carried out by my Department for the year ended the 31st December, 1941.

As in the previous two years the Report has been very much reduced and I have referred only to the more important branches of the work.

Every effort has been made to keep the work of the Department up to date and in spite of increased duties, I am pleased to be able to report that progress has been made.

SECTION C.

Water.

The usual routine samples of the public supply were submitted to the County Laboratory for bacteriological examination, all of which were the subject of satisfactory reports. Routine samples were also submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination by officials of the Water Company. No unsatisfactory reports were received. Great care is taken to ensure a pure and wholesome supply by the Water Company concerned. No case of illness attributed to water has been brought to my notice during the year.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The position is materially the same as last year. The electrically controlled pumps at St. Leonards Street, New Hythe Lane and London Road have continued to work satisfactorily throughout the year. No major repairs have been required at any of these three places. The Pumps at Swan Street, West Malling, need constant care and attention to maintain them in running order

whilst your Aylesford Pumping Station is a source of grave anxiety owing to excessive wear and age and the total impossibility to obtain spares for this Station there now remains but one set of pumps, the duplicate set having been used to maintain the one set in continuous operation. I would like to take this opportunity of saying that the maintenance of the pumps at Aylesford even under the very difficult circumstances to-day is due very largely to the care and attention given by your Engineer at this Station - W.Herrington.

Rivers and Streams.

My attention was directed to three cases of pollution by allowing the discharge of sink or soil drains direct into a stream. Investigations were carried out and a notice was served on the persons concerned. The notices were complied with and no further action was necessary.

Public Cleansing.

(a) Refuse Collection and Disposal.

No important alterations have been made in the method of collection or disposal of refuse during the year under review. As in previous years the scavenging of Woudham Parish was carried out by a contractor.

Salvage was very much to the fore and no effort has been spared to ensure, as far as practical, that all salvage is collected. To this end trailers were purchased for attachment to the refuse collecting vehicles and sacks were supplied to the men for carrying paper, cardboard, etc. The paper baling press at East Malling Mill has been worked at full pressure and the two women employed there found their time fully occupied in sorting and baling. In addition to paper, rags, bottles, bones, tins, batteries and rubber were also collected, sorted and forwarded to various depots. The staff on the whole have co-operated well with the general public to make the scheme a success and a steady flow of salvage has been main-

tained throughout the year. Difficulties were experienced in connection with transport but these were overcome. In order to encourage the men to take a keen interest a bonus scheme was adopted and in my opinion the return has justified the experiment. Endeavours have been made to educate the public as to the urgent necessity for saving every scrap of salvage and the response generally has been good. Isolated cases only were brought to my notice of the occupiers of premises using their refuse bins improperly. In each case an informal notice was all that was necessary.

(b) Cesspool Emptying.

The two Dennis Cesspool emptiers have been working to full capacity throughout the year. A tip was in operation at Preston Hall, Aylesford, and has been of great assistance so far as the cesspools in the Aylesford and East Malling areas are concerned. Difficulty was experienced in finding suitable tips in other parts of the district, particularly East Peckham.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

During the year 3,462 inspections were carried out in connection with the work of the Department and the following detailed statement shows nuisances and defects remedied:-

Overcrowding . . .	15	Dampness remedied in dwellings	109
Hop Pickers Camps . . .	12	Roofs and rain water pipes repaired	117
Sanitary accommodation:			
1. Where insufficient	11	Floors relaid where rough and faulty	30
2. Where defective . . .	44	Walls and ceilings repaired	66
Drainage:			
1. Reconstructed . . .	27	Windows and ventilation altered to comply with requirements.	39
2. Repaired . . .	85		
3. Cleansed . . .	471	Baths, Lavatory Basins, sinks and Sanitary Fitments repaired or provided where absent	
Cesspools:			
1. Repaired . . .	85		46

Offensive Accumulations removed	12	Water Supplies:
Refuse receptacles provided or renewed	401	(a) New supplies provided 6
Tents, Vans and sheds infringements rectified	15	(b) Precautions for preventing contamination of existing supplies 29
Smoke Nuisances abated	4	Miscellaneous defects remedied 147
Yard paving made good	25	
Keeping of animals	9	

The Shops Acts, 1912-1936.

It has not been found possible to carry out routine inspections under the above owing to pressure of work. Inspections were carried out, however, at every opportunity. During the course of inspections minor defects only were met with and these were remedied without recourse to formal action.

Camping Sites.

There were no sites in the area which were used for camping during the year. No applications were received in respect of licences under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Smoke Abatement.

No formal action was taken under the sections relating to smoke abatement. Two investigations were made into complaints regarding the discharge of excessive smoke but these were proved to be groundless.

Eradication of the Bed Bug.

Fourteen houses, six of which were owned by the Council, were disinfested during the year. The usual method of spraying with an insecticide was adopted. In each case this method proved effective and no case was brought to my notice of re-infestation having occurred.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

As in previous years every effort was made to bring to the notice of the general public the urgent necessity of taking steps to guard against rat infestation. Assistance was given where rat infestation existed. No serious cases of infestation were brought to my notice.

SECTION D.

Housing.

Routine inspections were carried out under the Housing Act, and in consequence of informal action forty-one houses were rendered fit. Eight formal notices were served, all of which were complied with.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.

One hundred and fifteen inspections of farms and dairies within the district were carried out. I am pleased to be able to report that during the course of these inspections minor defects only were noted. No formal action was taken under the Acts or Orders.

No case of illness attributable to milk supply occurred. Seven samples of non-designated milk were submitted for tubercle bacilli. No samples were submitted for bacterial content.

The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1926 and 1938.

Nineteen producers were licensed under the above. During the year fifty-two samples were submitted for examination, and of these eight per cent failed to satisfy the methylene blue test. Repeat samples were taken in these cases and satisfactory reports were obtained.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

The following food was condemned as unfit during the year:-

3 stones of Herrings.
2 " 11 lbs. Dab Fish.
4 " Coley Fish.
5 " Haddock.
1 stone Witches (fish)
48 lbs. Corn Beef.
157 lbs. Apples.
720 lbs. Black Currants.
8 tins Evaporated Milk.

No legal proceedings were instituted during the year.

(c) Adulteration, etc.

I am indebted to the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures (Mr. W. E. Allen) for the following details of the work carried out by sampling officers within the area:-

<u>Article.</u>	<u>Number of Samples.</u>
Beef Sausage Meat	1
Blackberry Jelly	1
Breakfast Sausage	2
Brawn	1
Baking Powder	2
Butter	13
Camphorated Oil	3
Castor Oil	3
Coffee	4
Cocoa	4
Cooking Fat	1
Currants	1
Custard Powder	1
Corn Flour	2
Egg Substitutes	4
Electric Lung Mixture	1
Fish Paste	2
Flour	5
Gin	1
Jam	3
Ground Rice	1
Lard	2
Lemonade	1
Luncheon Sausage	1
Margarine	5
Milkstead (Milk Substitute)	1
Mixed Cereals for Vegetable Stew	1
Mustard	1
New Milk	80
Pepper	4
Pexicon Pectin	1
Preserved Peas	1
Rice	4
Scotch Marmalade	1
Stuffed Veal Roll	1
Sweeterene (Sugar Substitute)	1
Sugar	3
Sago	1
Tea	5

<u>Article.</u>	<u>Number of Samples.</u>				
Tapioca	1
Tincture of Iodine	1
Tomato Soup	1
Whisky	1
Yorkshire Pudding Flour	1
<hr/>					
Total:					175

All samples genuine with the exception of the under-mentioned:-

New Milk. 38.0% deficient in fat. Defendant fined £5.

" " Contained 17.6% added water) Defendant fined £10 and
" " 48.9% " ") £1.1.0 costs and 5/-
" ") witness' expenses.

" " " 6.1% " " Defendant fined £5.

"Milkstead", Milk substitute. Label falsely described food. Manufacturers fined £15 and £3. 3. 0 costs and 10/- witness' expenses at Chatham Petty Sessional Court.

Hop Pickings.

The season commenced on the last few days in August and continued until the end of September. The majority of the farms were picking for the maximum period. Routine inspections were carried out and only minor defects were noted. No cases of infectious disease occurred during the season.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation for the kindness, consideration and valuable assistance extended to me by the Chairman and Members of the Council throughout the year.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Stephen L. Bundy,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

30th August, 1942.